


**Subject:** November 13, 2002 Testimony  
**Resent-From:** Millennium.Comments@noaa.gov  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Nov 2002 15:30:17 -0500  
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**To:** <Millennium.comments@NOAA.gov>

Attached is the testimony given by Dr. Frances G. Wills, Superintendent of Schools

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# BRIARCLIFF MANOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent  
45 Ingham Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510  
914-941-8880 Extension 303

Testimony Presented at the Millennium Pipeline Public Hearing - November 13, 2002

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony with regard to the proposed route of the Millennium Pipeline that has been deemed by the NYDOS as inconsistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act. I am the Superintendent of Briarcliff Manor Schools. You have already heard from our Board of Education and some of our concerned parents. As you can see by the number of orange stickers worn by this audience, we are here to make a strong and vivid statement about our opposition to a pipeline route that is 75 feet from our kindergarten playground and Todd Elementary School and 350 feet from our Middle and High school campus serving over 1900 students and staff members.

Since the charge to the Department of Commerce is to uphold the Department of State's decision unless there is no reasonable alternative route, I ask that you consider alternatives that have been presented in the light of the devastating impact of the current route on the ecology, health and safety of Westchester's citizens. It is not reasonable, nor is it in the national interest, to continue to support a route that poses life-safety threats in our post September 11<sup>th</sup> world. There has been a sea change in sentiment and public trust since the date the original Millennium route was proposed and the sudden selection of the current Con Ed offset-Taconic route. That sea change should be strongly considered by DOC. The definition of "reasonable" had been contradicted by the new definition of what is "imaginable" in a new age of "homeland security."

Is it reasonable to conceive of a route that has the potential to damage the fragile ecology of the Hudson River, the primary resource of this region?

Is it reasonable to conceive of a route has the potential to compromise the water supply of millions of inhabitants of NYC?

Is it reasonable to conceive of a route that is located within the 10-mile evacuation radius of the Indian Point nuclear plant?

Is it reasonable to conceive of a route that could threaten the power source to millions in one of the most densely populated areas of our nation?

Is it reasonable to conceive of a route that brings a pipeline to the backdoor of 1900 students and staff in Briarcliff's schools?

My job priority and number one responsibility is to protect the health and safety of children in my care. All agencies of our government now have to consider the safety of our public in a time when the public's sense of vulnerability increases daily with each new terrorist threat. The pipeline route approved by FERC is no longer viable and represents an additional danger to a region already burdened by its infrastructure targets. We ask your protection of Briarcliff children and the ecological integrity of our region.

Frances G. Wills  
Superintendent of Schools